

March 21, 2023

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Assessing Infrastructure Needs for Lifeguard Electric Vehicles

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (Department) currently maintains a no-cost agreement with Toyota to use 65 of their trucks for the Department's Lifeguard Division. These red trucks can be seen any day driving along the beach passing by sunbathers, volleyball players, surfers, and all other types of beachgoers. On January 10, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a two-year extension request to continue the agreement while the Department prepares a new solicitation for Lifeguard Division trucks.

However, Supervisor Hahn read in an amendment to the Board letter that was approved unanimously directing the Department to give preference to all-electric vehicles to be used by the Lifeguard Division on the County beaches in the future solicitation. Exhaust from gas-powered vehicles can have detrimental health impacts on people who breathe in too much of it, and the beach is somewhere that people should not have to worry about breathing in exhaust as they exercise or relax.

The County has already started making steps towards electrifying their vehicles. In 2021, the Board adopted a County Fleet Vehicle Policy that directed all County departments to only purchase zero emission vehicles moving forward. The new policy included an exemption for all first responder vehicles because they often have different requirements and configurations. But

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these trucks used by the Lifeguard Division are not fire engines or ambulances, but regular trucks. So, they are an ideal place for the Fire Department to start electrifying their fleet, in accordance with the County's larger priorities. That is why the Board unanimously approved the amendment to move in this direction.

As the Department prepares the upcoming solicitation that will give a preference to all-electric vehicles, we need to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure in place to charge the vehicles as needed. There should be an assessment of the existing charging capacity, an analysis of the gaps in infrastructure, an assessment of back-up charging options in the event of a power outage, and an analysis of what would be needed to support all-electric vehicles at County owned and County leased facilities used by the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Lifeguard Division.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, in collaboration with the Internal Services Department, to report back in 180 days in writing with an analysis of infrastructure and funding needs to support all-electric vehicles in the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Lifeguard Division.

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